

Message Text

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00180 120822Z

14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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R 120746Z JAN 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4994

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 180

EXDIS

FROM HOUGHTON

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS EG UK BE SA

SUBJECT: TASS OFFICIAL SUGGESTS BRITISH ARM DEAL
WITH EGYPT

1. DEPUTY TASS DIRECTOR IN CAIRO LEO YEDRASHNIKOV, IDENTIFIED AS PROBABLE RIS OFFICER, TOLD USINT OFF JAN 11 OF A "RUMOR" HE HAD HEARD TO EFFECT THAT HMG WAS AT PRESENT NEGOTIATING A DEAL WHICH WOULD SEE DELIVERY OF 100 BRITISH CENTURION TANKS TO EGYPT. CENTURIONS ARE REPORTEDLY PART OF AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY BRITISH WILL DELIVER ARMS, INCLUDING HALF-TRACKS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, TO EGYPT IN EXCHANGE FOR OIL FROM SAUDI ARABIA. YEDRASHNIKOV SAID THAT ACCORDING TO STORY, EGYPTIANS HAD TOLD BRITISH THAT LESS THAN A FULL BRIGADE OF TANKS MADE VERY LITTLE SENSE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF SUPPLIES AND LOGISTIC. YEDRASHNIKOV ADDED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE BELGIAN VESSELS MIGHT BE USED TO DELIVER THESE
SECRET

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ARMS TO EGYPT, SHOULD THE STORY BE MORE THAN A RUMOR.

2. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING TO COOROBORATE THIS REPORT, AND PASS IT ON FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH. IT MAY BE

A CANARD, BUT WE HAVE FOUND YEDRASHNIKOV WORTH LISTENING TO
IN THE PAST.
EILTS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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GENEVA
JIDDA
LONDON
MOSCOW
TEL AVIV

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